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Rec. No.: 7000 1670 0000 7131 4463

On : April 30, 2002

By

Eric L. Maldonado

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Attorney Docket No. 100794-00185 (FUJA 19.446)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Kazunori SHIOTA, et al.

Serial No.: 10/075,853

Filed: February 13, 2002

Title: **MULTIPLEXING METHOD AND APPARATUS SUITABLE FOR...**

Examiner:

Art Unit: 2661

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Technology Center 2600

April 30, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

S I R:

In order to comply with discretionary rules 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

As this statement is being filed prior to issuance of a first Office Action, no fee is due.

Also attached is a copy of a International Search Report dated January 11, 2000 from the corresponding International Patent Application. All of the documents listed in Form PTO- 1449 appear in the International Search Report, with the exception of JP 06-022287, dated January 28, 1994.

As some of these documents are written in a language other than English, English Language abstracts are annexed thereto explaining their relevancy in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3).

Each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a) and 1.106 (b), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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1449 PTO

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

Application No. : 10/075,853

Filing Date : FEBRUARY 13, 2002

First Named Inventor: K. SHIOTA

Group Art Unit : 2661

Examiner Name :

Attorney Docket No. : FUJA 19.446

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		5-344091	JP	SONY CORP	12/24/1993	
		59-178034	JP	FUJITSU LTD	10/09/1984	
		06-022287	JP	HITACHI DENSHI LTD	01/28/1994	
		07050648	JP	MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD	02/21/1995	
		01046336	JP	MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP	02/20/1989	

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Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check her if English language translation attached
		KENNTETH R. SITES, et al.. An Asynchronous 20-Channel Digital Multiplexer/Demultiplexer System for Transmission on a single 10 Kilometer Fiber-Optic Link, Proceedings of the 34 th International Instrumentation Symposium, vol. 34 1988, pp.97-109	
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1⁶ if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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